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# HENRY T. HELGESEN

(Late a Representative from North Dakota)

## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

DELIVERED IN THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE UNITED STATES

SIXTY-FIFTH CONGRESS

Proceedings in the House  
March 10, 1918

Proceedings in the Senate  
April 11, 1917

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GEORGE W. JOSEPH

## DEATH OF HON. HENRY T. HELGESEN

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PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WEDNESDAY, *April 11, 1917.*

The House met at 12 o'clock noon.

The Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D., offered the following prayer:

We come to Thee, O God our Father, with glad and thankful hearts that we are involved in a plan which can not fail of its ultimate purpose because of Thine infinite wisdom, power, and goodness. Yet history, observation, and experience teach emphatically that we may retard its progress as individuals, as a Nation, a race, by opposing the will of its Projector. Teach us, O God our Father, how to work together with Thee for the end which all true men long for, hope for, pray for, that Thy will may be done in us.

We have been touched by the going of a Member of this House, which leaves a void in our hearts. Comfort his colleagues, friends, and family by the blessed promises of the immortality of the soul, and help us to look forward with faith and confidence to the fulfilling of Thy plans in the larger life beyond the grave. And all praise be Thine through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mr. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, it becomes my sad duty to announce the death of the Hon. HENRY T. HELGESEN, a Representative from the State of North Dakota, who died in the city of Washington on yesterday afternoon. Mr. HELGESEN's career was a most distinguished and honorable

one. For the last six years he was one of the most highly respected Members of this body, and for more than 30 years he has been a leader in the civic and political activities of North Dakota.

I shall ask, Mr. Speaker, at some future time that a day be set apart when Members of this House may be afforded an opportunity to pay suitable tribute to his worth and character. At this time I send to the Clerk's desk a resolution, for which I ask present consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

House resolution 46

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Hon. HENRY T. HELGESEN, a Representative from the State of North Dakota.

*Resolved*, That a committee of Members of the House, with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

*Resolved*, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions, and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The question was taken, and the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair, by unanimous consent, announces the appointment of the following committee.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Young of North Dakota, Mr. Norton of North Dakota, Mr. Haugen of Iowa, Mr. Dillon of South Dakota, Mr. Johnson of South Dakota, Mr. Gandy of South Dakota, Mr. Nicholls of South Carolina, Mr. Clark of Florida, Mr. Kincheloe of Kentucky, and Mr. Booher of Missouri.

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PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

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Mr. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That as a further mark of respect the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 24 minutes p. m.) the House, under its previous order, adjourned to meet at 11 o'clock a. m. on Friday, April 13, 1917.

FRIDAY, April 13, 1917.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Waldorf, its enrolling clerk, announced that the Senate had passed the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of the Hon. HENRY T. HELGESEN, late a Representative from the State of North Dakota.

*Resolved*, That a committee of 10 Senators be appointed by the Vice President, to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives, to attend the funeral of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary communicate a copy of these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

*Resolved*, That as a further mark of respect the Senate do now adjourn.

And that in compliance with the foregoing resolutions the Vice President had appointed, under the second resolution, as the committee on the part of the Senate, Mr. Gronna, Mr. McCumber, Mr. Kenyon, Mr. La Follette, Mr. Jones of New Mexico, Mr. Husting, Mr. Cummins, Mr. Broussard, Mr. Smith of South Carolina, and Mr. Fernald.

WEDNESDAY, March 6, 1918.

Mr. BAER. Mr. Speaker, I desire to ask unanimous consent that Sunday, March 24, 1918, be set aside for addresses

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE HELGESEN

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on the life, character, and public services of HENRY T. HELGESEN, late Representative in Congress from the first district of North Dakota.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Dakota [Mr. Baer] asks unanimous consent that Sunday, March 24, 1918, be set aside for eulogies upon the life, character, and public services of the late HENRY T. HELGESEN, a Representative from North Dakota. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

THURSDAY, *March 7, 1918.*

Mr. BAER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the memorial exercises for the late Representative HELGESEN, of North Dakota, be held on the 10th of March next at 12 o'clock instead of on the 24th of March.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from North Dakota asks unanimous consent to change the date for the memorial services for the late Representative HELGESEN from the 24th to the 10th of March. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

SUNDAY, *March 10, 1918.*

The House met at 12 o'clock noon and was called to order by Mr. Norton as Speaker pro tempore.

The Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, our Heavenly Father, so near and yet so seemingly far;

Speak to him Thou, for he hears, and spirit with spirit can meet;  
Closer is he than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet.

In pursuance to a long-established custom of the Congress of the United States, we assemble here to-day in memory of a Member who served with fidelity, interest,



and ability his district, his State, and Nation for many years on the floor of this House. His work done, Thou hast called him to the larger life and to a larger service.

Death always comes with a shock. It is one of the profound mysteries which our limited knowledge can not solve.

The mind that thought, willed, and obeyed; the heart that loved and poured its affections out to whom it was sent; the eyes through which the soul looked; the hand that clasped with warmth the friends and loved ones are stilled; and we look with awe and reverence upon the prostrate form.

The angel of faith comes to our relief.

Hope says, be still, sad heart, and cease repining,  
For behind the clouds is the sun still shining.

So we trust and rest our grief in Thee, for love is immortal, and, though long delayed, it shall at last be satisfied. This comforts us and all who mourn for the departed; that we may look forward to a brighter day in a brighter realm, where our loved ones shall dwell forever in our presence; in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will read the special order for to-day.

The Clerk read as follows:

On motion of Mr. Baer, by unanimous consent,

*Ordered*, That Sunday, March 10, 1918, be set apart for addresses upon the life, character, and public services of Hon. HENRY T. HELGESEN, late a Representative from the State of North Dakota.

MR. BAER. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the following resolutions be reported.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolutions.

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE HELGESEN

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The Clerk read as follows:

House resolution 268

*Resolved*, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of Hon. HENRY T. HELGESEN, late a Member of this House from the State of North Dakota.

*Resolved*, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House, at the conclusion of these exercises, stand adjourned.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the resolutions.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

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### ADDRESS OF MR. YOUNG, OF NORTH DAKOTA

MR. SPEAKER: HENRY T. HELGESEN, late a Member of Congress from the first district of North Dakota, whose memory we have met to honor to-day, was born near Decorah, Winneshiek County, Iowa. After having been educated in the public schools, normal institute, and business college of Decorah, he entered the mercantile business there. He moved to Milton, then in the Territory of Dakota, in 1887. He at once became an active and permanent figure in the business and political life of the Territory. He served two terms as commissioner of agriculture and labor, retiring from that office in 1892.

He was at all times a staunch friend of education. He stood for higher standards for the public and high schools as well as the institutions of higher learning. In this connection he served as a member of the board of university regents for 10 years.

A man of sterling honesty and integrity as well as a close student of history and political economy, Mr. HELGESEN was an idealist in politics. In this respect he was typical of the idealism characteristic of his race. He was one of the first men in North Dakota to appreciate the need for a reform in the political methods then in vogue. He stood for clean primaries, clean conventions, and, above all, for placing the reins of power in the hands of

the people. He fought for the restoration of genuine representative government in North Dakota. To that end he was active in the organization of the Scandinavian League. That league was for a number of years a powerful factor for clean politics. Later he became interested in the movement known as Progressive Republicanism. Living at a long distance from my home, I had not until then become personally acquainted with him, though he was a well-known figure in the State. From that time I was intimately associated with him in political matters.

In 1908 we were the candidates of the Progressive faction for the two positions of Representative in Congress, our State not having been divided into congressional districts at that time. While we were both defeated, the long and vigorous speaking campaign which we engaged in was thought by many to have been in large part the cause of the election of one-half of our ticket, it being our habit to talk for the principles underlying our cause rather than in aid of our candidacies.

Two years later, having received the highest vote among those defeated at the former election, I was invited at two different State meetings of Progressive Republicans to become a candidate for Congress as a running mate for Mr. HELGESEN, the support of Progressive Republicans being assured to both of us. Representative Gronna having become a candidate for the Senate, there was a vacancy in the House, and it was believed that one Progressive Republican could be elected. As our State had not yet been divided into congressional districts, I would have in a sense been a candidate against Mr. HELGESEN, as it was improbable that we could both be elected. Mr. Hanna was serving his first term and, according to custom, was thought to be sure of a second term. I refused to be a candidate. This circumstance is mentioned somewhat in detail as evidence of my great respect and

love for our departed friend. I am proud to have thus had the opportunity in a rather tangible way to show my admiration and esteem of his many excellent qualities. He was nominated and elected along with Mr. Hanna. Within a few months the North Dakota Legislature divided the State into congressional districts. So the way was opened for me to come here, where I joined Mr. HELGESEN in the Sixty-third Congress.

My service with him here will always be a pleasant memory. We were closely associated. I am proud to have had his confidence. I valued his advice, and he seemed to regard mine as worth while. The day before he went to the hospital, never to return, he called at my office and we spent almost three hours discussing some pending legislation.

I admired Mr. HELGESEN because of his splendid courage. Having reached a decision as to what would be the right course, he would stand fast, stand firm, and stand alone, if need be. It was this trait of character which endeared him to the people of his State and commanded the respect and love of his colleagues in the House. He had the spirit of William Lloyd Garrison when he said:

I will not excuse, I will not equivocate, I will not retreat an inch, I will be heard.

To be first in advocating a good and, perhaps, unpopular cause is to be lonely, but to be thus lonely is to be noble. It was this nobility of soul which characterized HENRY T. HELGESEN.

Underlying all his business dealings and public acts was a sublime faith in the religion of Jesus Christ. Progressive and advanced in his thought in all other respects, he was old-fashioned in his religious ideas. Perhaps that accounts for his rugged honesty. He lived his re-

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE HELGESEN

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ligion. When the time came he was ready to go, and, I fancy, passed on in the spirit of one of the hymns he loved:

O love, that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul on thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O light, that followed all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

O joy, that seekest me through pain,  
I can not close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain  
That morn shall tearless be.

O love, that lifted up thy head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

#### ADDRESS OF MR. BAER, OF NORTH DAKOTA

MR. SPEAKER: The United States is rightly termed the melting pot of the world. From every clime and nation men and women seek our broad land to find their rightful place "in the sun" and eventually to become a part of our citizenry. Of all the peoples who thus come to our shores none more fully embody the elements of good citizenship than do the Norwegians. Intelligent, thrifty, and hard-working, they quickly and readily adapt themselves to the new land which they have sought from afar. No "hyphenated Americans" they, but an integral part of our body politic. That community or State may call itself fortunate which numbers among its people a goodly proportion of citizens of Norwegian birth or ancestry.

It was the good fortune of the late Congressman HENRY T. HELGESEN to be the direct descendant of such stock. It was also his good fortune to be born poor. I do not mean in grinding, abject poverty, but in those circumstances and conditions that teach lessons of frugality and inculcate habits of thrift and industry.

His birthplace was a farm in Decorah, Winneshiek County, Iowa. He received his education in the public schools and normal and business colleges of that town. There he spent his youth and early manhood. After leaving school Mr. HELGESEN engaged in mercantile pursuits and quickly became one of the prominent young business men of Decorah. Great was the regret of his fellow townspeople when, in 1881, the pioneer spirit of his ancestors stirring within him, Mr. HELGESEN, with his young wife and babies, removed to the then Territory of Dakota. He was one of the first settlers in Milton, of which town he remained a citizen until his death.

It was not my privilege to enjoy the personal acquaintance of Mr. HELGESEN, but, as his successor in representing the first district of North Dakota in Congress, I have learned much of his nobility of character and the high esteem in which he was held by the people of his adopted State. A letter written to him a short time before his death by a North Dakota man well expressed this esteem. The writer opened his letter with these words: "Dear and beloved by all your constituents Mr. HELGESEN."

The words "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country" could never be truthfully spoken of Mr. HELGESEN, for in his home town of Milton the love and respect manifested by the people who knew him best—his friends and neighbors—is deeply touching. He was their Congressman, but he was more—he was their trusted friend and neighbor. He was "Henry" to them, and tears still dim the eyes of many as they recount the kind words and deeds of him whom they loved. His life was one of service in the best sense of the word.

You who knew Congressman HELGESEN well know that his splendid physique, vigorous strength, and commanding personality were the outward indication of a keen intellect, an analytical mind, and invincible courage. The most kind-hearted of men, he could be combative and aggressive for what he believed to be right. He was essentially a man of the people and a friend of the poor. He loved liberty, hated oppression, and detested hypocrisy. His friendship was true. It could be depended upon. He never betrayed a trust. He was honest in thought, in word, and in deed.

Mr. HELGESEN's public and political career commenced long before his election to Congress. When the Territory of Dakota was divided he was the first commissioner of agriculture and labor in the new State of North Dakota,



and held that office for two terms. For 10 years he was a member of the board of regents of the University of North Dakota. He placed a high value on education and took a great interest in the welfare of young people. When he became an employer of men it was his delight to engage a struggling young man anxious for an education and by every means in his power help such an one to attain the goal of his ambition. Many a prosperous young man in Iowa and North Dakota owes his start in life to the helping hand extended by Congressman HELGESEN. So unostentatiously were his kindly deeds performed, however, that but few other than the recipients had knowledge of them.

In private and in public life Mr. HELGESEN was hearty and sincere. He was outspoken with the candor of truth. His home in Washington was headquarters for any of his constituents who visited the Capital City, and warm-hearted hospitality was always extended to the folks from "back home." In his office or at his home his friends were always welcome, but he had no time nor inclination for intercourse with those who had proven themselves insincere. He was a leader in the fight for cleaner politics in North Dakota, and never in the many vicissitudes of commercial, private, or political life was his good name tarnished or his honor stained. His rule of conduct was the golden rule, and his slogan was "A square deal for all."

A plain, practical man, Mr. HELGESEN yet possessed a strain of sentiment of which only his close friends were aware. A beautiful picture, a touching poem, and fine music were deeply appreciated by him. Among his personal papers were always to be found clippings of short poems and bits of literature which had appealed to him and were treasured for their charm of pathos or sentiment.

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## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE HELGESEN

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His personal tastes were intellectual. He was a man of wide and varied study and numbered among his friends writers and scientists of world renown. His scientific work and research in geography and current history were extensive, and his contributions to the literature of geographical exploration have attracted the attention and won the highest commendation and indorsement of men of learning and science.

Four times in succession was Mr. HELGESEN elected to represent the people of North Dakota in Congress, once as Congressman at Large and three times as Representative from the first district. During his term of service he was an honored and useful Member of this House, and his active work on the Agricultural Committee will long be remembered by his constituents and colleagues alike. Blessed with a keen mind and sound common sense, he fought gallantly for any measure which seemed to him to be for the best advantage of his constituents and the people of the Nation at large.

Having spent his boyhood days on a farm, and representing a constituency largely composed of farmers, Mr. HELGESEN was ever alert to the agricultural interests of the country. His speech in the House in 1911 on reciprocity with Canada is still quoted as embodying the soundest arguments advanced on that question from the farmer's point of view. He was an ardent advocate of woman suffrage and was ever ready to speak a good word for that worthy cause.

In regard to our foreign policies, Congressman HELGESEN felt deeply, thought clearly, and acted with the courage of his convictions. Always independent of slavish precedents, he did not hesitate to cast his vote with a hopeless minority when he felt that minority to be right. As an opponent he was a fair and generous fighter. He always fought in the open. He never stabbed an

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ADDRESS OF MR. BAER, OF NORTH DAKOTA

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antagonist in the back or shot from ambush. He never faltered in a fight, even though he foresaw the loss of the battle. To him—

It was not the loss of the battle that counts,  
But how did you fight, and why?

Mr. HELGESEN was a loving husband and a kind and affectionate father. He left to his children the priceless legacy of unsullied honor and an untarnished name; and when he was overtaken in the strength and prime of manhood by that silent adversary to whom sooner or later we must all surrender his last thoughts and words were for the welfare and happiness of his loved ones. In the opening days of the Sixty-fifth Congress his earthly remains were carried to his boyhood home for their long rest, and from far and near men and women came to do him honor and to mourn his loss. Eulogies were delivered at his funeral by men of learning and eloquence, but of them all none could surpass the tribute paid by the plain words of hundreds of his fellow citizens that "HENRY HELGESEN was one of the straightest, squarest men the State had ever known."

He was a friend of truth, of soul sincere,  
In action faithful and in honor clear;  
Who broke no promises, served no private ends,  
Sought no title, and forsook no friends.

#### ADDRESS OF MR. HAUGEN, OF IOWA

MR. SPEAKER: It was my pleasure to know Mr. HELGESEN intimately during his stay here in Washington, to serve with him on committees where our duties brought us in frequent and friendly contact. I observed closely his faithful and efficient work here in the House, especially on the Committee on Agriculture. Of Mr. HELGESEN it can truthfully be said that he was a noble example of manhood, kindly and lovingly disposed, greatly admired, commanding the respect and admiration of all who knew him. He was not only a man of high type of character, sterling qualities, and talent, but he was sociable, courteous, obliging, and loyal to his friends and his country. He was endowed with lofty ideals, and always pursued his duty with fidelity, industry, and rectitude of purpose. His guiding star was honesty and sincerity, always shunning deceit and cunning practice. Though modest and unassuming, Mr. HELGESEN was a man of action, a man of firm determination to do justice and right to all. To the bottom of his heart he deplored deceit and oppression. He was a forcible, logical, and convincing speaker, a man of integrity, sound judgment, possessed of a broad mind and firm convictions. As a result he honorably and gloriously succeeded in fulfilling the duties incumbent upon him. Knowing Mr. HELGESEN, it was impossible not to become attached to him and to be inspired with the fullest confidence and respect for his grand character.

Mr. HELGESEN was born in my district, in Winneshiek County. On the hill overlooking the beautiful city of Decorah and the splendid surrounding scenery rest his remains. In that vicinity he spent his boyhood days, at school and on the farm, up to the time he moved, then a young man, to the State of North Dakota, where he soon

became one of its foremost citizens, taking an active part in politics, farming, and business. From boyhood his life was pure and stainless. He rose from the humble walks of life to the high position which he held in this House. His record, both private and public, is an open book without a stain of immorality, deception, fraud, or corruption. I am sure that I voice the sentiment of every Member of this House, his constituents, and all who knew him when I say that in Mr. HELGESEN we had a splendid type of manhood, founded upon integrity and virtue; that his loyalty to principles, his devotion to truth, his industry, his conscientious and efficient work merited the esteem, confidence, and respect in which he was held by his large circle of devoted friends and admirers acquired during his career here.

In his Christian home he was a devoted and kind husband, an affectionate father, a friendly and obliging neighbor. His death caused deep bereavement, sincere and profound regret to all. He died in the full maturity of his mental vigor, at a time when his life, character, example, mature judgment, and wisdom was of the greatest value to his country.

ADDRESS OF MR. LOBECK, OF NEBRASKA

MR. SPEAKER: I came here to-day more to listen than to speak; for I wished to hear the story of the earlier days of our beloved colleague, his helpfulness to mankind, and the tributes of affection to the memory of our departed friend.

One of the first men that I met in Congress and became acquainted with was Congressman HELGESEN. Immediately there arose between us that friendship and love that man should have for man and that will never be forgotten. There was something about him that appealed to me as a man of great thought and business ability and as one who inspired confidence in everyone that he met. Possibly one of the reasons for my getting acquainted with him closely was that I knew of the nationality from which his people came. I have known the Scandinavian people from my boyhood days, and no better people ever came to the West for the purpose of developing that great country. As early as the forties, in the last century, the Norwegians came to Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and later to Minnesota, and then farther west, and no people have done more to develop that part of our glorious heritage than the Scandinavians.

They came with empty hands. Most of them were poor, but they had a faith in themselves and in God. They turned the virgin soil to the sun; they plowed, sowed, and reaped; they built homes, humble in the beginning, but which became in later years the very best in our country. They did their part in building towns and cities. They went into the lumber camps of the North and felled the forests, and did as much as any other people to develop

that portion of our land. They entered into business life, into every line of activity that the American people engage in, and they have been successful. I believe that one of the reasons why the Scandinavian people of this country have become true Americans is that they brought the Bible and the hymn book with them. They feared God and no one else. They commenced their services praising the Almighty God, the Father of us all, and listened to the teachings of the Master in humble homes; but as soon as possible they erected churches for divine worship. And they not only erected churches but schools and colleges, that their children might attend and learn the ways of true Americanism and have that advantage which would make them equally successful with other peoples in the world.

From that kind of stock Congressman HELGESEN came. I listened to the remarks of my colleagues here as to his early days on the farm, then as a young merchant, and then as a pioneer in North Dakota. . I have seen and know of that same experience in the lives of many of them, and I do not wonder that when Congressman HELGESEN became a Member of this House that he knew the needs of the people of the West, that he knew the needs of the people of this country, and that he at once became an active and useful Member of this House. It is to be regretted that he should have had to pass away in the prime of his manhood and usefulness.

The Scandinavians of this country have been a loyal people. Mr. HELGESEN could not have been otherwise, because in the community where he was raised there were no more patriotic people than the people of Decorah, Iowa. When the call came in his boyhood days from President Lincoln that this Nation must be preserved no class of people responded more freely than his people.

It is told of a neighbor of his that he had six boys that went into the service for the preservation of this Union who had the longest record of service of any family in 1861-1865. When the youngest boy, whom I have known well in later years, came and asked his mother—he was only 16—"Can I enlist?" she said, "Five of my boys are gone; you should stay at home." But the sturdy old father rose up in his chair and said, "Any boy that I have got, large enough to carry a gun for our flag and my adopted country, shall have full freedom to go." Those six boys gave 24 years of service in the preservation of our Union.

HENRY T. HELGESEN was but a little boy at that time, but the spirit of the neighborhood at that time must have created in him a patriotic spirit of devotion to our flag and devotion to everything that the Stars and Stripes stand for that could never be forgotten, and therefore I do not wonder that as a boy, as a youth, as a young man, and as he grew older in years he wanted to do the best for his country, his neighbors, and be helpful to mankind.

It is that class of men in this country, that class of citizens, that help make this country the best Nation and the best people on earth. We can ill afford to lose men like HENRY T. HELGESEN. It will take strong men to fill his place. But we can look back with pleasure upon our association with him, those of us who served with him, and we can tell to those who come after us and to our neighbors that there was no more faithful man to his people, to his country, and to our flag than HENRY T. HELGESEN, of North Dakota.



ADDRESS OF MR. DILLON, OF SOUTH DAKOTA

MR. SPEAKER: HENRY T. HELGESEN, pioneer, farmer, merchant, public servant, has broken the congressional circle and passed over to the valley of the great beyond. We pause a moment to render a slight tribute to the memory of a personal friend.

MR. HELGESEN was born near the city of Decorah, Iowa, educated in the high schools, a graduate of the little college that honors that city. He soon left for the Northwest, the Territory of Dakota, now North Dakota, where he founded his home as a pioneer. When the State entered the Union in 1889 he was elected to the office of commissioner of labor and agriculture; he was re-elected to the same position, in which he gave distinct honor and service to his State.

He was elected to the Sixty-second, the Sixty-third, the Sixty-fourth, and the Sixty-fifth Congresses, but before the session of the Sixty-fifth Congress convened he was confined to his bed in a hospital in the city of Washington. But his interest in the legislation then pending before Congress was intense. His mind dwelt constantly on the great problems that were then pending.

Soon after I came to the Sixty-third Congress I had the pleasure of forming an intimate acquaintance with MR. HELGESEN. There was probably not a Member in all that body that I became so closely associated with in counsel and in the discussion of matters that were then pending in Congress. I found him strong in conviction, sincere in purpose, loyal to his ideals; an unceasing worker, untiring in his efforts to please the people who sent him here.

He was known as a Progressive. When that great movement struck the Northwest he was a leader of those who sought to bring back the legislative department of the Government to the constitutional rights of the people. He was one who believed that the legislative department of the Government should be brought close to the people, and when he found his party in the wrong he refused to follow them in the wrong. When he found them in the right he gladly followed them and gave his counsel and advice.

It was that sterling character of intense loyalty and honesty that formed his opinions on every public question. The loyalty of service was high in his character. We often read of the physician who visits in the hospital the sick with a contagious disease and refuses to leave the bedside, notwithstanding the contagious disease, the one thought being of public service. We read of the engineer who remains upon his engine, moving swiftly along the great railroad, with impending danger, and refuses to leave his engine, knowing that those under his charge rely upon him; when he could jump to a place of safety, he prefers to go down in death into the coming wreck; like the pilot upon the vessel, refusing to leave his place of trusteeship until every passenger has reached a place of safety.

It was such a purpose that was ever uppermost in the mind of HENRY T. HELGESEN and led him in his public service in this House.

I was one of the number who journeyed on the funeral train to that beautiful little city of Decorah, in the district now represented by the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. Haugen], and when our train reached there the whole city was in mourning. The little children filled the streets. From every part of the county came old friends to honor and revere his memory. I could see many of them weep-

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ADDRESS OF MR. DILLON, OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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ing as the funeral procession went up the street of that little city. It was a testimonial that long will live in my memory. They laid him to rest in the little cemetery that overlooks the city, amid a wilderness of roses.

Let us, like him, seek the love of little children, the good will of men and women, that our lives may be an inspiration and our memory a benediction.

ADDRESS OF MR. LUNDEEN, OF MINNESOTA

MR. SPEAKER: In the prime of life he left us. Yesterday he stood among us full of vigor and inspiring in his very presence. To-night he sleeps beneath the stars.

And perhaps it is best thus in the midst of the battle of life, while strongly defending those principles he held nearest his heart, to go down to death and be no more.

He leaves a vacant chair, and aching hearts will always recall him as he was. I can see him now striding down the Halls of Congress, tall, strong, and powerful. His quick glance and rapid words arrested and held attention. He was a leader among men, and none knew him but respected the Congressman from the first district of the great State of North Dakota.

My acquaintance with Congressman HENRY T. HELGESEN was brief, but will be long remembered. As a citizen of Minnesota, I knew him well by reputation. He was beloved by his people, and his popularity was not confined to the boundaries of the district which he represented in Congress. Throughout the State of North Dakota and the entire Northwest he was known as a man of honor and integrity—a man of tremendous faith in the average man.

MR. HELGESEN was a Progressive Republican, but he was never at any time a blind follower of any man or of any party. He served in this House under a Republican administration and under a Democratic administration. Four times elected to Congress by the Republican Party, he was sometimes criticized by members of that party for occasionally voting in favor of Democratic measures. A staunch believer in Republican principles, he was sufficiently broad-minded to be untrammelled by party ties,

and his vote was cast for what he believed to be the best interests of the country.

Those who knew Mr. HELGESEN know that he was a man of strong convictions. In his political life he was not given to snap judgments. He weighed each question as it arose carefully and judicially. His decision made, he was firm and unswerving in its advocacy. No criticism or ridicule, no hectic clamor or political opposition, could move him from his place.

In those stirring days of the Sixty-fourth Congress, when the prospect of impending war was discussed on every hand, Congressman HELGESEN was firm in his contention for a continued and impartial neutrality on the part of the United States. Those of you who have served here for many years know that it is no easy matter for a man in Congress to be one of the small minority opposed to measures which have the overwhelming support of the reigning administration. Yet Mr. HELGESEN did not hesitate to place himself in such minority. At a time when we were drifting nearer and nearer war Mr. HELGESEN introduced in this House a resolution demanding a referendum of the people of the United States on the question whether or not war should be declared. This resolution—the last one ever introduced by Mr. HELGESEN—was read into the Congressional Record by him, and in its support he said:

Mr. Chairman, believing that the people of this Nation have the right to be consulted and to determine for themselves whether or not they want to become a party to the wholesale slaughter now going on in Europe and offer their sons as a sacrifice to the modern barbarous and inhuman engines of destruction used by both sides in that conflict, I am introducing the following resolution.

If the element which insists that war is the only way by which we can honorably settle our differences with the belligerents in Europe finally succeeds in involving us in that terrible conflict, no

father, no mother, and no American boy who will be sacrificed in the trenches in Europe will ever be able to truthfully say that I have not done my utmost to save them from such a fate, or that I have not tried to give the people of the Nation an opportunity to determine for themselves whether or not they believe that war is the only honorable means by which we can deal with the situation now confronting us.

Those remarks were typical of the man. The life, liberty, and happiness of the people of the United States was first in his thoughts. His big heart beat warmly for his fellow men. He was no pacifist by nature, as none know better than his colleagues who served with him in this House. Believing, as President Wilson said in his address to the Congress on February 26, 1917, that "the American people do not want an armed force put into action," Mr. HELGESEN exerted all of his influence to preserve an impartial and absolute neutrality.

The last speech made on the floor of the House by Mr. HELGESEN was a speech against the arming of American merchant ships, and when the vote was taken a little later on the question of armed neutrality—which was considered a practical declaration of war—Mr. HELGESEN made one of a little group of 11 men who, fearlessly, in the face of overwhelming opposition and at the risk of permanently antagonizing the administration, voted against that measure. And from every part of his district, his State, and the United States a flood of letters and telegrams poured into his office, expressing the heartfelt thanks and appreciation of American citizens from every walk of life for his courage and fearlessness in making a determined effort to save this country from the horrors of war.

Congressman HELGESEN never forgot that he was a servant of the people, holding office by their will. His pride in the people who thus honored him was great, and his earnest desire to serve his constituents, regardless of politics, was well known. In that desire lay much of his

political strength. No complaint was too small for him to investigate, no appeal so humble as to be neglected. The welfare and wishes of his constituents were the guiding light of his official action, and that light was never dimmed by any willful act of his.

Always interested in the welfare of the rising generation, Mr. HELGESEN was a strong advocate of vocational education, the principles of which he put into practical operation in the education of his own family.

Mr. HELGESEN was deeply interested in geographical and historical research, and his work along those lines will be long remembered. It was due to his efforts that the official United States maps of the Arctic regions were corrected to conform to the latest and most authentic reports, and his writings on Arctic exploration won for him an international reputation. Some of the results of his investigations were incorporated in a speech delivered by him on the floor of the House on January 13, 1916. In referring to this speech the noted historian and geographer, Edwin Swift Balch, of Philadelphia, wrote to Mr. HELGESEN :

It is as fine a piece of historical geography as was ever penned, and it will live in geographical annals.

Dr. Herman Schoenfeld, Ph. D., LL. D., professor at Georgetown University, also wrote Mr. HELGESEN in regard to the same speech :

You have rendered the greatest possible service to the sacred cause of truth and science, and your name will therefore be engraved with golden letters in the records of truth in polar discovery.

Dr. Chase Salmon Osborn, LL. D., author, explorer, and ex-governor of Michigan, considered by many as the most widely traveled man of this generation, wrote on March 20, 1916 :

You have conferred a favor upon the people of the entire Nation. As one of them, permit me to thank you.

Middleton Smith, explorer, author, and member of the Point Barrow International Polar Expedition, summed up his opinion in these words:

As a historical document your speech will live forever and a day.

The greatest living American authority on Arctic exploration, Maj. Gen. A. W. Greely, leader of the Lady Franklin Bay Arctic Expedition, commended Mr. HELGESEN's work in geographical research in a letter written under date of March 5, 1917, from which I quote:

Your investigation displays a legal mind of keen perception, and your unselfish labor must have been great. \* \* \* I feel that you have thus rendered a service both to the truth of history and to the cause of science.

In the death of Congressman HELGESEN his family lost a kind and loving husband and father, his State a conscientious and able Representative, and the Nation an upright and fearless statesman.

He grew in power and independence and his district grew with him. The old first will continue for many a decade to send strong and independent men to Congress. Had he lived through the Sixty-fifth Congress he would have continued to hold a leading place in the councils of the Nation. Fearless, powerful, untiring, he is badly missed to-day.

Mr. Speaker, death is the great tragedy of life, but, sir, the life of Congressman HELGESEN reminds us of the service we can render and the influence we may leave behind us.

The end of the road is a door to God.

Mr. Young of North Dakota took the chair.



## ADDRESS OF MR. NORTON, OF NORTH DAKOTA

MR. SPEAKER:

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,  
All that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,  
Await alike the inevitable hour.  
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

I come here to-day to pay my tribute of love to the memory of him who was my colleague and my friend. With those who knew and loved him for his gentle and sterling character I come to breathe for a moment the sweet fragrance of flowers his life left behind and to lay upon the sacred altar of his fame my words of admiration and esteem.

I can not hope to be able to pay just tribute in words to the memory of North Dakota's brilliant and much-beloved citizen whose untimely death we so much lament. The magnificent accomplishments of his life, his rise from humble surroundings to the position of a recognized leader in the greatest legislative body in the world, are the highest tributes and the most enduring monuments to his memory.

Mr. HELGESEN was of Norwegian descent. He came of that hardy pioneer stock which in the middle of the last century crossed the seas in quest of new homes and settled on the untamed but fertile farming lands of the Northwest and which has done so much in the last 50 years to make that section of the country the richest and most productive part of the Nation. He was born, reared, and educated in Winneshiek County, one of the loveliest portions of Iowa, and spent the days of his mature manhood in upbuilding the great Commonwealth of North Dakota.

By his career he added new honor to the race from which he sprang, to the State where he was born, and the State he represented here so well and so honorably.

It was my good fortune to have been closely acquainted with Mr. HELGESEN for a period of nearly 20 years. The opportunity came to me to know him as he actually was. It was given me to realize the real man and to appreciate the worth and beauty of his character and life. His was a rare spirit, such as is given to few on this earth, to illumine the pathway as he went by the depth of his logic, by the soundness of his wisdom, by the breadth of his experience, and the strength and courage of his heroic nature. The pomp, the power, and the pride of official position never changed his simple faith. No man can go far astray whose love of family and kindred and friends was so great and such a guiding element in his daily personal and public life as it was with my lamented colleague.

For 30 years he was closely identified with the progress and development of North Dakota. Coming to Dakota Territory from Iowa when he was 30 years of age, he soon made the influence of his learning, experience, and sturdy character felt in the rapidly growing then agricultural frontier of the West. Two years later, when North Dakota was admitted to statehood in 1889, he was honored by being elected the State's first commissioner of agriculture and labor and was reelected to succeed himself, serving in this position for four years. Later he served as a member of the board of trustees of the State University for three terms. His sound advice and counsel did much to lay a broad and firm foundation for the magnificent development and success which that institution has had during the past two decades.

Mr. HELGESEN possessed in a very large measure the strong and sterling characteristics of the Norwegian race

from which he was descended. His appearance and manner were kind and pleasing. They were that of a leader of men. They commanded the respect and confidence of all his friends and acquaintances. He was a man at once a lover of fairness and of freedom. He was among the early leaders of the progressive spirit in the Republican Party in North Dakota. From the railroad and reactionary interests which for many years held sway in the State he met bitter opposition. With the spirit of determination and persistence of the Vikings of old he fought his way to the top and overcame all opposition. He lived to see the principles of State government for which he contended succeed. He lived to see the ideas and ideals of truly representative government, which he advocated in the State for many years when his followers were few, become overwhelmingly popular.

Always liberal and open-minded, he refused to surrender his principles or compromise his convictions. It was his sturdy character in public life that won and held the confidence of the public.

During the six years he served in the House of Representatives he won the highest respect and the fullest confidence of all his associates. Mr. HELGESEN was a forceful speaker and at all times a thorough, careful, and discriminating student of national affairs. He was one of the best and most widely informed men on the very important Committee on Agriculture, and Members of the House always depended upon him for wise guidance on all questions of legislation affecting the agricultural interests of the country. Had not his career been cut short by the grim reaper, Death, his industry, his intelligence, and his broad experience would have won for him a permanent place among the strongest and most influential leaders in Congress.

He came from the masses of the people, from whence has ever come the truly great. He was always loyal and

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE HELGESEN

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true to the masses. He learned from the teaching of his pioneer parents and from the hard battles of life which he fought the full meaning of the immortal plowman's words:

The honest man, tho e'er so poor,  
Is king of men for a' that.

He learned in life's battle that as loyal, as noble, and as great a heart can beat within the homespun shirt of the toiler in mine or field or factory as pulsates beneath the royal purple of any prince; and that is why men who knew him will ever love his memory and mourn the death of this light-haired, blue-eyed, golden-hearted knight of the people who lived and died without fear and without reproach.

Mr. HELGESEN was in very poor health many months before his death. It had been most difficult for him to remain at his work. The legislative problems which the great war brought upon the country added to his labors, but he was not one to shirk responsibilities. He was a close student of war problems since the beginning of the European war and had the interest of this Nation and its people at all times close to his heart. He felt it his duty to remain at his post, at whatever personal sacrifice it might cost him, to give counsel to his people and to his Government in days when the civilization of centuries seemed threatened with destruction. Faithful to his ideal, my colleague yielded up his noble and useful life. It is to be greatly regretted that he should have been taken away at the time his country was about to place all the power and resources of its free people on the side of the contest for world-wide democracy and freedom and for the everlasting obliteration from the civilized world of monarchy, militarism, and serfdom. His ripe experience and his rich counsel would have been of inestimable value

to this Congress, but he is gone. Why he was taken from us at such a time we know not.

God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants his footstep in the sea  
And rides upon the storm.

Still, he did not die in vain.

Mr. Speaker, the lives of each one of us are guideposts to others along the pathways of life. Mr. HELGESEN's whole life exemplified what may be accomplished by unswerving honesty and a heroic determination to make a success of whatever we undertake. The most inspiring examples which have descended to us from the pages of history, sacred as well as profane, are those of the early Christian martyrs and the more modern political and religious reformers who have surrendered their lives upon the altar of sacrifice, the quiet but determined heroes who have suffered martyrdom for principles and convictions they held dear, who have died uncomplainingly at their posts of duty, as my colleague did. I saw and spoke to him shortly before he was taken away. While he seemed to realize that death was near, his mind was busy with thoughts of State, and his inquiries of me were about the work of the Congress, the progress of the world war, and the thoughts, feelings, and welfare of the people of our own Nation. His departing recalls to me the beautiful lines which have been written on "Death and Duty: "

Dead at his post of duty!  
What finer eulogy? All the boast  
Of pomp and glory seems but idle breath,  
Beside the calm quiet of death.  
Where death and duty meet  
Is found solution most complete  
Of all life's problems! It's enough—  
Dead and at his post!

But such men as he are not dead; they live in the hearts of their countrymen. The verdict of history will be that he was notable in those characters which go to make up the best and strongest characters the world has known.

He was devoted to his country, faithful to his trust, sincere in all his relations with his fellow men, and suddenly taken from us in the prime of his faculties and the plenitude of his usefulness. Death has bereft us of his presence. Death can not bereave his family, his friends, or his country of the high service he rendered nor of the tender memories his manly personality inspired.

While North Dakota's soil would have been proud to have guarded his mortal remains, it was fitting that, after life's duties nobly done, he should have been taken home to the green hillsides of beautiful Winneshiek County, Iowa, where he first saw the light of day. We laid him to rest near the home of his boyhood, where he first met, loved, and won the good wife with whom God so blessed his life and of whom he was so justly proud. He sleeps where hardy Norsemen and their descendants have made with their toil and their intelligence a paradise out of once wild prairie lands. He sleeps near the shadows of famed Luther College, an institution of learning which I know he admired greatly. He sleeps the last long sleep, as he wished to sleep it, on a wonderfully beautiful hillside overlooking the quiet but charming little city of Decorah, where it can be truly said health, happiness, and contentment cheer all who labor there.

With hearts full of sorrow we can truly say of him the best that can be said of any man—the world is better because he lived in it.

Mr. Norton resumed the chair.

Mr. YOUNG of North Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members shall have five days within

which to extend their remarks upon the life, character, and public services of the late HENRY T. HELEGSEN.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Dakota [Mr. Young] asks unanimous consent that all Members have five days in which to extend their remarks upon the life, character, and public services of the late HENRY T. HELGESEN. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none.

Under the special order for the day the House now stands adjourned until 12 o'clock noon to-morrow.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 10 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until to-morrow, Monday, March 11, 1918, at 12 o'clock noon.





PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, April 11, 1917.

A message from the House of Representatives, by E. T. Taylor, jr., one of its clerks, communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. HENRY T. HELGESEN, late a Representative from the State of North Dakota, and transmitted resolutions of the House thereon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate resolutions of the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES,

April 11, 1917.

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Hon. HENRY T. HELGESEN, a Representative from the State of North Dakota.

*Resolved*, That a committee of Members of the House, with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

*Resolved*, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions, and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That as a further mark of respect the House do now adjourn.

Mr. McCUMBER. Mr. President, I offer the following resolutions and ask that they be read.

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE HELGESEN

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The resolutions were read, considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of the Hon. HENRY T. HELGESEN, late a Representative from the State of North Dakota.

*Resolved*, That a committee of 11 Senators be appointed by the Vice President, to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives, to attend the funeral of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary communicate a copy of these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

The Vice President appointed, under the second resolution, as the committee on the part of the Senate: Mr. Gronna, Mr. McCumber, Mr. Kenyon, Mr. La Follette, Mr. Jones of New Mexico, Mr. Husting, Mr. Cummins, Mr. Broussard, Mr. Smith of South Carolina, and Mr. Fernald.

Mr. McCUMBER. Mr. President, as a further mark of respect to the deceased Representative I move that the Senate adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to and (at 6 o'clock and 20 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Thursday, April 12, 1917, at 12 o'clock meridian.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

TUESDAY, March 12, 1918.

A message from the House of Representatives, by G. F. Turner, one of its clerks, transmitted to the Senate resolutions on the life and public services of Hon. HENRY T. HELGESEN, late a Representative from the State of North Dakota.

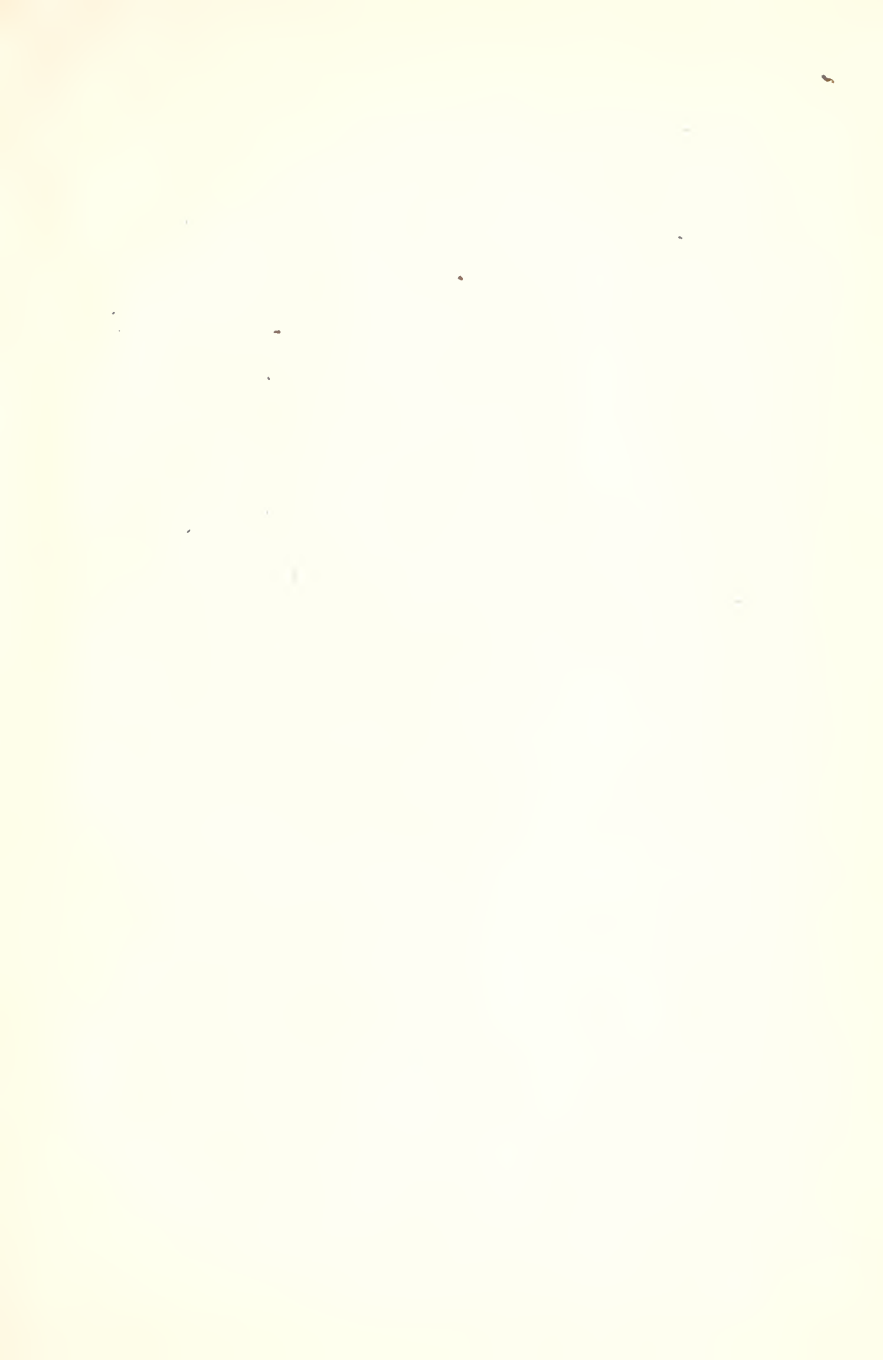


























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